

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

20 April 1976

NOTE TO: D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT: NIB--Again

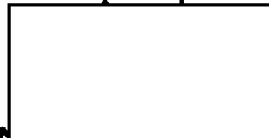
1. I plan to indicate to the head of OCI, Bill Parmenter (whose Deputy conducted the survey which resulted in the proposed death of the NIB) that the failure to consult with us on this matter was unfortunate. I won't raise this to the level of a diplomatic incident, and Parmenter is an eminently reasonable guy anyhow. But there is good reason to discuss the matter with him, because the Community will expect us to help them if they have problems with the proposed new system (which they almost certainly will).

2. Please allow me to urge you, once again, to express at least mild discontent to Ed Proctor about the way this business was handled. Whether innocent oversight or a deliberate move over your head, Ed's action vis-a-vis a matter of direct concern to you should not go unnoticed lest it invite similar "oversights" in the future.

3. It may be, by the way, that we will want to get to USIB with a new proposal concerning what should replace the NIB (i.e., something other than a sanitized, cabled, version, which is what the DDI now plans to issue).

Attachment:
IC 76-2287

ACTION



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Prepared for you for the request!

IC 76-2287
14 April 1976

File

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

MV

FROM:

[Redacted]

C/IC/PAID

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SUBJECT:

Discontinuation of the National Intelligence Bulletin (NIB)

The National Intelligence Bulletin has lived long enough and so we do not resist the DDI's move to kill it. But we certainly have problems with the way the death-dealing blow is being delivered--to our offspring!-- and we would have welcomed (and should have had) a chance to recommend other procedures and a different sort of memo to USIB principals.

1. In his memorandum for USIB principals of 12 April concerning current intelligence publications, [Redacted], in effect, announces that the National Intelligence Bulletin will be discontinued as a result of his review of the "current intelligence publications produced within CIA."

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2. The NIB was put in business in June 1974 by USIB, following the development and coordination of procedures for its publication by the IC Staff. Your predecessor, General Graham, was the "father" of the NIB, which he and Mr. Colby saw as a DCI- and USIB-sponsored Community enterprise. (There is no CIA seal on the cover of the NIB; rather, there is a USIB logo.) It was not intended to be, and in fact was not, a CIA publication, though the Office of Current Intelligence served as the DCI's "executive agent" and handled the production of the NIB.

3. The NIB worked as a Community product, but not very well. State/INR coordinated but did not participate in the editing and did not contribute items; DIA provided an editor and wrote articles for

[Redacted]

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publication, and so did NSA. But we (who have had to monitor the NIB account and arbitrate disputes between the agencies concerned) can testify that no one was ever very happy about the NIB as a joint effort.* Neither DIA nor NSA felt that they were getting a fair deal from the "CIA management" of the NIB; the "CIA management" rarely felt that DIA and NSA contributions were up to the standards of quality and completeness required for a national intelligence daily; and, to a degree, analysts in all three agencies resented the need to prepare current intelligence items for yet another publication. Few in any of these agencies will mourn the passing of the NIB, and it is true, as the memo states, that OCI consulted with (unresisting) production officers in DIA, State, and NSA before drafting the memo for the DCI's signature.

4. We proposed in a memorandum to the DCI of 11 June 1974 (signed by General Graham) that the NIB and NID should eventually be merged, because their contents were largely redundant and it was expensive to publish both dailies.** Mr. Colby agreed in principle at the time. We repeated the recommendation "in public" in our RONI of February 1975. We, thus, have no problem, in principle with the DCI's proposal. We do have some problems, however, with the DCI's memo (as drafted by DDI folk), partly because it makes no bow whatsoever to the Community character of the publication. The recent Executive Order clearly strengthens the DCI's authority

*Just a month ago, for example, a senior NSA officer approached us with complaints about what he construed to be the misuse of some NSA contributions to the NIB; we looked into this for him, he had a good point, and we discussed the matter with the NIB editor-in-chief, who was cooperative and who in effect promised improvements in procedures.

**Specifically, we suggested that a merged NID and NIB "would retain the title and character of the former, the Community coordination philosophy of the latter, and the readership of both." Instead of a sanitized cable version designed to meet "departmental needs"--as now foreseen by the DDI and DCI--we proposed that "any material in the merged publication which was too highly classified or for other reasons deemed suitable only for the highest-level audience could be published separately (on, for example, a single NID-size page bearing its own classification) and inserted only in those copies of the NID sent to that particular audience."

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for the production of national intelligence, and this is reflected in the tone of his memo to the USIB principals. But we would have urged, had we been consulted, that the memo at least acknowledge USIB participation in the birth of this publication and USIB contributions to an honest effort to breathe life into a Community infant. Indeed, we would have given the memo a less final tone in general (i. e., made it clear that this was a proposal rather than a decision) on the grounds that there clearly was no need in this instance to assert authority.

25X1 5. We also feel that the DDI was remiss in not discussing this matter with you, not only because that would have been the courteous and sensible way to proceed, but also because the D/DCI/IC (usually through PRD) has exercised an acknowledged responsibility for monitoring the progress of the NIB as an Intelligence Community issuance. [redacted] the Deputy Director of OCI, was aware of the IC Staff's interest in this matter (and was reminded of it, both 25X1 b [redacted] of the USIB Secretariat and [redacted], but did not get in touch with us concerning this matter at any time. Thus, we were: (a) surprised, (b) embarrassed, (c) denied the opportunity to suggest procedures for the "new" NID, and (d) also denied the opportunity to help shape the memo which went out to the USIB principals.

25X1 6. I recommend that you express your displeasure to Mr. Proctor and that I express mine to [redacted] I think, in addition, that we should encourage DIA, State/INR, and NSA to consult with us concerning coordination issues and other problems likely to attend the revamping of the NID.



Distribution:

- 1 - D/DCI/IC
- 1 - IC/Registry
- 3 - IC/PAID

RWS:mjs

1 [redacted]

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